BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 2021-23-C

IN RE:

Joint Application of Charter Fiberlink SC-CCO, LLC) and Time Warner Cable Information Services (South) Carolina), LLC for Designation as Eligible) Telecommunications Carriers to Receive Rural) Digital Opportunity Fund Auction (Auction 904)) Support for Voice and Broadband Services and)) Request for Expedited Consideration.

REQUEST FOR
CONTINUANCE OF
HEARING DATE AND
EXTENSION OF FILING
DEADLINES FOR REBUTTAL
AND SURREBUTTAL
TESTIMONY

Pursuant to 10 S.C. Code Regs. 103-838,¹ Charter Fiberlink SC-CCO, LLC and Time Warner Cable Information Services (South Carolina), LLC (collectively, "Joint Applicants") submit this Request for a Continuance and request the hearing in this docket now scheduled for April 20, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. be continued and rescheduled for May 11, 2021 at 10:00 A.M (or the next available date thereafter). Joint Applicants further request that current deadlines for filing rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony be extended by a number of days equal to the number of days between the original hearing date and any rescheduled hearing date set pursuant to this Request (assuming this Request is granted).

In support of this Request, Joint Applicants would respectfully show as follows:

1. Joint Applicants seek eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") designation in certain census blocks in South Carolina for those reasons set forth in the Joint Application.

¹ This regulation provides that "[a]ny party of record desiring a continuance shall, immediately upon receipt of notice of the hearing or as soon thereafter as facts requiring such continuance come to its knowledge, notify the Chief Clerk, stating in detail the reasons why such continuance is necessary. Unless good cause is shown, no such continuance shall be granted."

- 2. ETC designation is a necessary requirement for Joint Applicants to receive over \$112 million in Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") support funds to buildout voice and broadband services to 11,936 census blocks across the state identified as unserved by the FCC. (Direct Testimony of Michael A. Chowaniec at page 20, lines 18 20). Charter Communications, Inc. expects to invest an additional \$250 million in private capital in South Carolina in support of this project for a combined total of \$362 million, directly advancing this state's strong public interest in building out broadband to unserved residents and small businesses. (*Id.* at page 21, lines 15 17).
- 3. The only parties of record in this proceeding are Joint Applicants and the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS").
- 4. ORS and Joint Applicants are currently engaged in good faith negotiations to complete and enter an appropriate stipulation, which would enable the Public Service Commission of South Carolina to cancel the hearing and rule on the Joint Application based on the written record as it did in Docket Nos. 2021-15-C; 2021-16-C; 2021-17-C; 2021-18-C; 2021-19-C; 2021-21-C; and 2021-22-C.
- 5. A continuance of the hearing date is necessary to allow Joint Applicants additional time to complete their good faith negotiations with ORS in an effort to complete and enter a mutually agreeable stipulation in this matter.

WHEREFORE, Joint Applicants submit that the good faith potential for the parties in this proceeding to complete and enter a stipulation, and thus, obviate the need for a hearing in this matter, constitutes good cause for this request, and, therefore, justifies continuing the hearing scheduled on April 20, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. to May 11, 2021 at 10:00 A.M (or the next available date thereafter) and extending the filing deadlines for the rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony

consistent therewith.

Respectfully submitted,

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Columbia, South Carolina April 9, 2021